

their light. The President's weekly levees are attended by crowds—admirers not particularly of Presidents, certainly not of this one, but of Levees. The inducements are wholly of an ethereal character, as is right; but the East Room is a fine winter promenade when the weather is not too cold—or, if it is, the crowd within corrects to some extent the frost without. I think no levees have been better attended than Mrs. Pierce's.

Dinners, Parties, and Balls cluster thickly. There were some gentlemen, last evening, I believe, who dined at a distinguished Senator's, proceeded thence at 9 to a party at a Cabinet Minister's, and closed the evening at the Ball of one of the great Hotels. At all events, if they failed to partake of this third course, it was not from want of opportunity or invitation. There is a saving of time and of elaboration of costume in thus dispatching one's dissipation with businesslike celerity and method.

If the long blockade of the Treasury by reason of the non-election of a Speaker has kept Washington on half allowance, as was asserted, then, since the blockade is raised, there should not only be the full ordinary supply, but a large amount of involuntary savings to be now received, disbursed, and enjoyed. Not being personally interested, I cannot say how the fact compares with this legitimate deduction from the universally asserted premises.

—Washington is not an intellectual metropolis, in the book-worm's acceptance of the phrase. It were invidious to ask the resident friend you next meet if he has read Macaulay's new volumes, or the belle whom you lead out for the next quadrille if she has read anything whatever. I have been told that the sale of any popular book, unless of the most fragile texture, is smaller in this city than in any other of equal numbers in the country. "The proper study of mankind" is here held to be—printed pages, at any rate. Yet there is said to be a very refined and intellectual circle of established residents here, but accessible only to a few eminent or fortunate strangers.

Sleighting, which began as an imposition, has degenerated into a bore. The half-dozen boxes on runners, with eight horses' legs in front, which were at first loaned as a favor at \$7 per hour have long since ceased to be hired or desired on any terms. I doubt that they would command fifty cents per hour for even three hours per day. This snow seems at length to comprehend that it has overstayed its welcome, and is making preparations to evacuate the city.

The Potomac is frozen so far as the vision extends, and the carriage-road hence to Alexandria (seven miles) lies directly across and down the noble stream. I presume all the Artillery of the United States might have been drawn on a bee-line in close marching order from the Capitol to Alexandria at any time during the last fortnight. I do not hear that this was ever the case before since this city was founded.

Washington has one scientific association, which meets once per month, and is usually attended by less than fifty people; one literary institution of any note—the Smithsonian—which of course it does nothing to support; and its journals, *The National Era* excepted, are largely nourished from the Federal Treasury. Of course, their sphere is limited and their influence moderate.

—I was mistaken in stating that the Rev. Mr. CONWAY expected to lose the pastorate of the Unitarian Society here for preaching his sermon on the Moral Aspects of the Slavery Question, or the Rights of Conscience in the premises. That was the inference of a mutual friend, not Mr. C.'s own apprehension. He preached as he thought just, and has no belief that his society will dismiss him for so doing.

—Mr. C. H. McCORMICK, of "Reaper" renown, has just received at this place his "Grand Medal of Honor" from the French Exhibition of Industry in acknowledgment of the originality, great merit, and successful working of his machine at the official test. The medal is of pure gold, of large size, contains some \$125 worth of the shining ore, and is of course faultlessly executed. Being the only one of its class which has reached this point (for Mr. Goodyear is now a resident of Paris) it has seemed to me worthy of this mention. Our inventors must win more than two such at the next World's Exhibition, if held at any point so accessible as Paris.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1856. The official advice by the Arabia reached here on Monday, and are now pretty well understood in diplomatic circles. Mr. Buchanan expresses some misgivings as to the state of our relations with Great Britain, but they do not seem to be warranted by the facts upon which the opinions mainly rest. He entertained even more serious apprehensions two months ago, and was exceedingly exercised as the probable temper of the President's Message, believing it might wield an important influence on the question of peace or war. A few hours before the sailing of the steamer the dispatch from the Department of State, requiring the recall of Mr. Crampton and the dismissal of the three Consuls, had reached him, but sufficient time had not elapsed for the presentation of the official communication. His impressions were, doubtless, formed principally upon previous interviews with Lord Clarendon, in which the extremity that has now come to pass was presented as an alternative by no means remote.

Mr. Buchanan is constitutionally susceptible on delicate points like these, and he may have attached more consequence to the diplomatic phrases of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs than they were intended to convey. Or it is not unlikely he may have adopted as earnest and decisive language that was employed only to deter our Government from taking the step which it has done. If Lord Palmerston, however, should assume to take an act in judgment, which every sentiment of national dignity demanded, the consequences of that temerity will redound to his own disadvantage, and result in no particular advantage to England. Wall street need take no alarm from these suggestions, for though diplomatic ceremonies may be temporarily interrupted, no break in the intercourse of the two Governments is anticipated here.

Mr. Dallas will start for London as soon as his arrangements can be completed, unless intelligence should arrive in the meantime rendering haste unnecessary. There is every reason to suppose that the request made by the President for Mr. Buchanan to remain at his post until a successor arrived was received seasonably enough to prevent his departure from London on the 12th inst., as he contemplated. If any correspondence should ensue upon the Enrollment matter, he would naturally desire to conclude it, and therefore will be likely to see the upshot of the pending difficulty.

The objection which was made to Mr. Dallas's confirmation on the day his name was sent to the Senate proceeded entirely from a misapprehension of his views in regard to a Central American question, which certain patriots in that chamber consider paramount to all others, and overshadow

ing every subject now before the American people. Had it been remembered that Mr. Dallas could only act in conformity with the instructions which he should receive from Secretary Marcy, some degree of nervous excitement might have been saved. The objector and his suite acquiesced very gracefully on Monday, and no dissent was recorded.

Mr. Dallas belongs to a stock which loves office for the sake of office, just as some of the journey-men Union-savers love "the Union for the sake of the Union." The family have lived upon office since the year one of this Republic. Military, naval, judicial, diplomatic, executive and legislative places have all got in their clutches. And they cry for "more." An intimation has been made to the West End that Mr. Dallas has a son, and that son should be converted into a Secretary of Legation, and thus make the mission a round twenty thousand a year. This nice little arrangement has not been quite completed, nor has the President signified his willingness; but the end of application will be played, whether it should with Mr. Dallas cannot afford to damage the character of his pedigree by sacrificing any chance for preferment, be it small or be it large.

Mr. Buchanan's dispatches express confidence that the proposition of peace offered to Russia will constitute something more than the mere basis of negotiations. He is clearly persuaded that the prospect of pacification is near at hand, and with such guarantees as will preclude any new rupture after the treaty has been adopted by the contracting parties. Other Ministers of this Government, located at important capitals in Europe, do not concur at all in this expectation. On the contrary, they represent that Russia has given a seeming assurance, in order to obtain time and to render her preparations for protracting the war more formidable. Between these conflicting opinions the public must decide.

The election of Printer to the House is considerably embarrassed. There were several absentees from the caucus which nominated Mr. Follett, who do not entirely consider themselves bound by the action on that occasion. There is a strong conviction, too, that so large an amount of patronage is centered on that particular office should be distributed, and propositions to that effect are now pending which may lead to a consummation. Otherwise the obstacles will be increased rather than diminished.

Gen. Cullom is beset by hundreds of applicants. The rush exceeds all former experience. He has heard with patience and deference the friends of all these aspirants to patriotic service, and will determine to-night upon whom the eleven appointments in his gift shall be conferred. If the usual appropriation be allowed this year, he will have nine additional places to give in the Treasury Department.

THE LATEST NEWS.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

RECEIVED BY

PRINTER TO THE HOUSE.

Editorial Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

The House declined to proceed with the election of Printer to-day, as Mr. Wendell was likely to be chosen by the combined votes of the Democrats, the Southern Americans and stragglers. It is hoped that the combination will be broken up by Monday.

I believe Col. French's credentials as Minister of Nicaragua have not been definitely accepted or rejected.

H. G.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

Mr. L. D. Campbell of Ohio will be tendered the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ways and Means.

Gen. Cullom's appointments will probably not be announced until Monday. A prominent place was offered to Mr. Henry Clay Mudd, but declined. Gen. Cullom will retain some of the present officers, from public considerations.

The Printing is reconsidered, and will probably be postponed for new arrangements.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

In connection with the long-standing discussion relative to the affairs of Central America, and the question of extending limits between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, a new claim has been put in by New-Grenada, laying pretensions to the same boundary which Costa Rica claimed through the insubstantiality of the late Felipe Morales, who published an interesting and comprehensive work on that subject.

New-Grenada, while expressing her readiness to relinquish all the territory on the coast from Cape Gracias a Dios to the extreme south, insists that the tract of land so exclusively claimed by the late Minister of Costa Rica, belonged and always had belonged to New-Grenada in virtue of titles conferred upon her by former treaties between the Republic of Colombia and the former United Province of Central America.

Mr. Forney is dangerously ill with inflammation of the bowels. His illness is supposed to have been produced by the excitement and over exertion incident upon the discharge of his late duties as Clerk of the House.

Mr. Buchanan in a private letter to a friend in Washington, states that it is his intention, on the arrival of his successor to set out for a two months' trip to the Continent of Europe.

The tank ship in the Washington Navy Yard was accidentally destroyed by fire this morning. The estimated loss \$6,000.

XXXIVTH CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE, WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 1856.

Mr. CASS submitted a resolution directing the Committee on Naval Affairs to consider the expediency of an increase of the Navy.

Mr. BAYARD introduced a bill providing for the public printing, engraving and binding of the Constitution, and resolution directing the Committee on Finance to prepare and report the General Appropriation bill was considered.

Mr. SEWARD said that since the foundation of the Government no appropriation bill has originated in the Senate, and he was an ancient and established principle that the money of the people shall not be drawn from the public treasury without the consent of the Representatives of the people. This conservative feeling was borrowed from the British Constitution as necessary to secure public liberty, and the spirit of the Constitution requires that the old-established plan shall be adhered to.

Mr. HUNTER denied that there was any difference, so far as the question of power was concerned, between bills for the relief of individuals and general appropriation bills. If the Senate could originate the French Spoliation bill, appropriating millions of dollars, why not one for the Military Academy?

Messrs. TOOMBS and TOUCEY supported the resolution.

Messrs. SUMNER and WILSON opposed it. Mr. Sumner said it was an inopportune time to propose such a bill, and that it was for the first time when the popular branch of Congress promised to differ from the Senate on great questions of national policy.

The resolution was adopted—the object being to prevent a bill involving millions being hurriedly acted upon at the close of the session, sometimes without being read.

Adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. GROW gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill to secure Homesteads to actual settlers.

Mr. MILLSON gave notice of the introduction of a bill to repeal the act authorizing the establishment of the National House of Representatives.

The Speaker was authorized to appoint Standing Committee.

Mr. PENNINGTON, from the Joint Committee appointed to wait on the President, reported that the President had expressed his high appreciation of the courtesy, and would be happy to cooperate with Congress in any measure promotive of the public interests.

Mr. CAMPBELL of Ohio, moved a reconsideration of the resolution for the election of printer. Agreed to by 102 against 81.

Mr. CAMPBELL of Ohio, made an ineffectual effort to amend the Senate's joint resolution for the relief of the poor of Washington and Georgetown.

The question then returned on the resolution for the relief of the poor of Washington and Georgetown, which the House adjourned till Monday.

DEMOCRATIC MASS MEETING.

CONCORD, N. H., Thursday, Jan. 7, p. m.

The Democrats of Merrimack County held an immense meeting in this city this afternoon. It has been snowing violently all day, yet multitudes of people have poured into the place and filled Phenix and Depot Halls, reversing the order of the day. The speakers were made by Col. Walker of California, Orr of North Carolina, and Gen. Lane of Oregon, and at the latter by Gov. Cobb of Georgia, Mr. Lovejoy of Massachusetts, and by the Hon. John S. Wells of this State.

The Democrats claim, notwithstanding the storm, equal, if not superior numbers, to the opposition. The speaking was done in the evening, when large additional delegations from other places will be present.

DEATH OF JUDGE BYINGTON OF MASS.

BOSTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

Judge Horatio Byington of the Massachusetts Common Pleas Court, died yesterday at his residence in Stockbridge.

He fell in this city steadily from 8 to 12 o'clock to-day, when it was succeeded by a heavy rain-storm, a thick fog, and indications of a general thaw.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

No. 47—Patrick McLaughlin, James M. Swann et al. Justice Curtis delivered the opinion of the Court, reversing the decision of the Circuit Court of Maryland, with costs, and remanding the cause with directions to award venire facias de novo.

No. 46—James A. Abbott et al. vs. The Essex Co. Justice Grier delivered the opinion of the Court, affirming the judgment of the Circuit Court of Massachusetts, with costs.

No. 45—Ship Howard, et al., Wm. F. Schmidt et al. claimants and appellants, agt. Frederick Wiseman. Justice Caton delivered the opinion of the Court, reversing the decree of the Circuit Court of the Southern District of New York, and remanding the cause with directions to dismiss the libel, with costs.

No. 57—Argument continued by the Hon. George E. Badger, for defendant.

No. 59—John J. Orton, appellant, agt. George Smith. Argument commenced by Mr. Lynde for the appellant, and continued by Mr. Brown of Wisconsin for the appellee.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

HILLDALE, Mich., Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

A collision occurred on the Michigan Southern Railroad, a half mile west of this place, last night, between the Western and Western Express trains. The train-trunk, baggage-car, fireman and one other man were killed, and an engineer, brakeman and train-boy each had a leg broken. The baggage-car of the Eastern train was burned, with all the baggage and the mails.

THE WEATHER.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

An inch of snow fell here last night. This morning it has changed to rain—freezing at its falls. A meeting of merchants is now in session to provide means for opening the channel through the ice in the river.

The ice-boat is engaged, breaking her way down to the steamer City of New York from Boston, frozen in near Red Bank, with her propeller broken. The train extends in every direction as far as heard from from the south, and as far west as Louisville.

We are having a brisk snow-storm this forenoon. Early this morning the weather here was freezing cold, but it is warmer now, and rain is falling. There is much ice, and the streets are in a dangerous condition.

BALTIMORE, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856. We had a storm of snow and sleet this morning; it is now raining heavily. The necessary funds having been subscribed, strong efforts are being made to open Baltimore Harbor, and it is expected that navigation will be resumed in a few days.

We have no mail this morning south of Washington. St. Louis, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856. A foot of snow fell here yesterday. The weather is now moderating, with indications of a general thaw. There are no hopes of the Mississippi opening for two weeks yet. The railroads are all clear in this vicinity.

BUFFALO, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856. The weather is milder, with indications of a thaw. Trains come through on the Central and Lake Shore roads to-day, and they will run regularly to-morrow. The railroads are all clear to Chicago.

MARINE DISASTER.

BOSTON, Thursday, Feb. 7, 1856.

The brig Acorn, from St. Domingo for New York, arrived at Newport yesterday with loss of forty-eight men, sails, and cargo.

NEW-YORK LEGISLATURE.

By Our Own Reporters.

SENATE, ALBANY, Thursday, Feb. 7.

KANSAS AND NEBRASKA. The PRESIDENT announced the Select Committee on that portion of the Governor's Message which treats of the organization of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska. It consists of the following Senators: Messrs. Richardson, Madden and Harcourt.

A VACANCY IN THE REGENCY.

A communication from the Hon. P. S. Van Rensselaer was read by the Clerk this morning, resigning his position as a Regent of the University. The reason assigned is his contemplated long absence from the capital.

THE SEAMAN'S FUND AND RETIREMENT. Mr. SPENCER introduced a memorial from the Trustees of this institution, which goes into a full history of its organization, until in 1851 the contributions of the sailors were separated from those of the citizens. The year was then spent in a careful investigation, and an estimate was made of the relative amount previously paid by seamen into the fund, and the amounts expended for them in board, nursing and physician's fees, and the balance in hand was found to be \$441,000. The sum in the years 1850 and 1851 the Trustees, having obtained from the Board of the fund, and which had been before constituted the joint fund which had been called the Mariners' Fund. That in the year 1851 the Trustees having obtained from the Board of the fund, and which had been called the Mariners' Fund. That in the year 1851 the Trustees having obtained from the Board of the fund, and which had been called the Mariners' Fund.

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attached. Also, whether, in the judgment of the two Departments, the consolidation of the Board of Two Governments and the Commissioners of Emigration into one Board, chartered with the power of the act in the City of New York, would not be attended with economy in the expenditure of money, and result in a more convenient and beneficial arrangement of the two Departments. Also, that the Ten Senators and Commissioners of Emigration report to the Senate the average expense of persons supplied by them in their respective Departments, and other information as they may possess of the personal and general expenses of their two Departments.

A HYDROPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Mr. HALSTED introduced a bill which incorporates R. T. Trail, G. W. May, C. B. Le Baron, Wm. Hunt, S. E. Wells, L. N. Fowler, G. P. Adams, Theodore Hyatt, C. Bush, G. E. Taylor, C. A. Blackall, A. E. King and their associates, by the name of the New-York Hydropathic Medical College, to be located in the City of New-York, for the purpose of promoting the study of the science of hydrotherapy, and to hold and convey real and personal estate to the amount of \$200,000. The College to be subject to the visitation of the Regents of the University.

Mr. H. moved to refer this bill to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. BRADFORD, Chairman of the Committee on Medical Societies, insisted on the bill being referred to his committee.

Mr. BROOKS asked the Senator if he was in favor of hydrotherapy.

Mr. BROOKS—The Senator is not non-committal and I shall vote against referring the bill to his committee.

Mr. HALSTED remarked that the reason he moved it to the Judiciary Committee was that the Senator from New-York, Mr. Bradford, had told him that he would not consent to a bill like this.

The Senate refused, by a vote of 3 to 1, to refer it to the Committee on Medical Societies; and it was sent to the Committee on the Judiciary.

GIVING PREFERENCE TO CERTAIN CASES.

Mr. OXON brought in a bill which provides that cases arising on habeas corpus, or by petition, or actions to obtain the custody of infants, shall have a preference in any court in which they may be pending, and may be moved out of their order on the calendar at any time, by either party.

ASSEMBLY.

CITY RAILROAD COMPANIES.

Mr. BREVOORT intends to bring in a bill to protect citizens of the City of New-York against the imposition of Railroad Companies. If any person or other person who shall obstruct the highway or street through which a railroad may pass, by piling up snow or other material in the roadway, or by any other means, shall be liable to a fine of not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars for each offense, such fine to be recovered in any Court competent to hear the same, and the fine to be paid over to the proper officers of the City Hospital for the benefit of the sick.

GENERAL ORDERS.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. PAYNE in the chair, and disposed of, as noted, the following bills:

To repeal the act providing for the more effectual drainage of Tonawanda Swamp. Ordered to a third reading.

To incorporate the Spraker's Basin Suspension Bridge Company. Third reading.

To incorporate the Binghamton Suspension Foot Bridge Company.

Mr. CARPENTER moved to strike out the provision exempting the Company from taxation until the tolls are sufficient to pay the cost of construction and repairs.

Mr. FANDERBERG opposed the motion.

Mr. FOOT said that there was now a general bill in course of preparation relative to the taxation of incorporated companies; and he considered it inexpedient to make any special provision on the subject as contemplated in this bill. He hoped the amendment would prevail.

The motion was carried, and the bill ordered to a third reading.

Mr. DESHLER in the chair—To incorporate the New-York Ladies' Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Third reading.

For the relief of Oliver Barker and Ferris Hubbell. Progress.

Authorizing the appraisal and payment of canal damages to Helen A. Wood and others, heirs-at-law of the estate of Benjamin H. Wood, deceased. Progress.

Mr. DEVENING in the chair—For the relief of Albert Marchand. Progress.

To relinquish the title of the State to certain lands in the Town of Ripley, Chautauque Co. Third reading.

To confirm the title of Melissa E. Pinneo to land purchased of Eden A. Agan, an alien. Third reading.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. Trimmer until Tuesday next, and Mr. Witbeck until Thursday next.

Mr. PRESCOTT in the chair—Authorizing the payment of money to Thomas White, of the town of Perinton, County of Monroe. Third reading.

To amend the Charter of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. Third reading.

For the relief of Newton Chappell. Third reading.

Mr. MALLORY in the chair—To amend the Revised Statutes relating to Weights and Measures. Progress.

Legislative County Clerks and Surrogates to make transcripts of certain records and papers. Third reading.

To amend the act authorizing a loan of certain moneys belonging to the United States deposited with the State of New-York for safe keeping. Progress.

Mr. JENKINS moved that the bill to amend the Revised Statutes relative to weights and measures be recommitted to the Committee reporting it, for amendment. Carried.

Mr. MATTHEW in the chair, the Committee of the Whole on the bill for the payment of damages to the St. Regis Indians for the sale by the State of two islands belonging to them.

Mr. ODELL moved to strike out the enacting clause, saying the State had been harassed for years by claims for compensation for these islands, and last year the Legislature passed a law paying to several individuals sums far greater in the aggregate than the islands were worth.

Mr. HOBBS claimed that the payment to other parties was no reason why the Indians holding a valid title to the islands should be compensated for years.

Mr. ODELL said that this was the first time any claim on the part of the St. Regis Indians had been put forward. It was shown conclusively last year that Barnhart and others were the only ones in possession of the title.

Mr. SNOW suggested that the Committee report progress, so that the House could obtain the facts in the case.

Mr. ODELL withdrew his motion, and progress was reported.

To enable Executive Officers in the City of New-York to obtain information or proof necessary in the discharge of their duties.

On motion of Mr. E. T. WOOD, the City of Brooklyn was included under the provisions of the bill, and it was ordered to a third reading.

To amend the act authorizing the payment of an award of the